

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15780

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - MISSING LINE PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, ETRD, EAIR, JA, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH PARLIAMENTARIAN'S VISIT TO JAPAN

1. ALTHOUGH UNOFFICIAL, JAPANESE WERE PLEASED BY ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL, RATHER THAN ECONOMIC NATURE OF AUGUST 21-26 VISIT TO TOKYO BY SPANISH PARLIAMENT LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IGNACIO CAMUNAS. MAIN PURPOSE OF CAMUNAS' VISIT WAS TO STRENGTHEN TIES BETWEEN HIS OWN UNION OF DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY (UCD) AND JAPAN'S LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP). AS MOFA 2ND WEST EUROPEAN DIVDIR ARAFUNE ADMITTED TO EMBOFF AUGUST 30, JAPAN'S POLITICAL CONNECTIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE WERE WOEFULLY THIN, AND IT WAS NECESSARY, IN ARAFUNE'S WORDS, TO TAKE "EXISTING THREADS AND BUILD THEM INTO A ROPE."

2. WHILE IN TOKYO, CAMUNAS PAID COURTESY CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AND FONMIN SONODA, MET WITH LDP SECGEN OHIRA, AND LUNCHEDED WITH LDP DIET MEMBERS KOSAKA (FORMER
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FONMIN) AND SHIGA, CHAIRMAN AND SECGEN RESPECTIVELY OF SUPRA-PARTISAN JAPAN-SPAIN PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, NEWLY FORMED THIS MARCH. CAMUNAS EXTENDED INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER, AS PRESIDENT OF LDP, OR OTHER LDP REPRESENTATIVE, TO ATTEND LIBERALS INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN SPAIN TOWARD END OF SEPTEMBER. CAMUNAS ALSO EXTENDED SIMILAR INVITATION TO ATTEND UCD CONGRESS IN

LATTER HALF OF OCTOBER. JAPANESE SAID THEY WOULD GIVE THEIR RESPONSE WHEN TIMING OF JAPANESE SPECIAL DIET SESSION, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 18, WAS FINALIZED.

3. IN MEETING WITH LDP SECGEN OHIRA, CAMUNAS CONVEYED DESIRE OF KING JUAN CARLOS TO VISIT JAPAN IN EARLY PART OF NEXT YEAR. (THIS REQUEST HAD ALREADY BEEN MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY BY SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO.) JAPANESE SAID THEY WOULD STUDY REQUEST, BUT ARAFUNE REMARKED THAT MANY VIP'S WERE COMING TO JAPAN DURING THAT PERIOD, SO GOJ WAS NOT SURE TIMING WOULD BE CONVENIENT. FURTHER PURSUING INVITATION DIPLOMACY, IN MEETING WITH FONMIN, CAMUNAS INVITED SONODA TO VISIT SPAIN, AND SAID SPANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE PLANNING TO FORM COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION TO JAPAN-SPAIN PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION.

4. ONLY ECONOMIC ISSUE RAISED FROM JAPANESE SIDE WAS LONG STANDING REQUEST TO OPEN TRADE AND FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO ARAFUNE, SPAIN HAS DISCRIMINATORY IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AGAINST JAPAN ON 166 ITEMS, LARGEST NUMBER IN WESTERN EUROPE, AND HAS NOT YET ENTERED INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPAN ON SPANISH 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, DECLARED IN MARCH. CAMUNAS TOOK UP SPANISH WISH TO START NEGOTIATIONS ON CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT AND WAS TOLD THIS REQUEST WOULD RECEIVE MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT IF CONFIDENTIAL

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JAPAN'S DESIRES FOR TRADE AND FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS WERE MET FIRST.

5. ARAFUNE WELCOMED CAMUNAS' VISIT, NOTING GENERAL LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND JAPAN. AS EXAMPLE, ARAFUNE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN DIRECTOR OF HIS DIVISION FOR OVER HALF YEAR, CAMUNAS' VISIT WAS FIRST TIME HE HAD CONTACT WITH SPANISH DIPLOMATS IN TOKYO.
MANSFIELD

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